THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The project undertaken in Maharashtra by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are given below:—

(1) Expansion of apron, taxiway and provision of shoulders and construction of new control tower have been taken up in Nagpur airport;

(2) Extension of runway to 9000 ft., construction of new apron, link taxiway and new terminal building and car park area are at hand in Aurangabad airport;

(3) Work relating to extension of Fast Taxi track and construction of parallel taxi track; construction of Bay No. 14 and installation of aerobridges at Bay No. 17, 18 and 19 along with security hold are in progress in Mumbai airport.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, Airports Authority of India has developed Nagpur Airport as a Model Airport in 1996 for limited international operations with all passenger facilities. No airline has volunteered to operate international flights through Nagpur airport. An integrated cargo and courier terminal at Nagpur airport has already been commissioned by AAI in November, 1997 for handling international domestic cargo and courier bags at a cost of Rs. 2 crores.

International Airport at Mopa (Goa)

4584. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Committee has cleared the proposal for International airport at Mopa in Goa on Build-Own-Operate and Transfer basis recently;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of its construction and by when it is likely to be in operation;

(c) whether the existing domestic airport would continue to operate; and

(d) whether Government would made the domestic airport more convenient from the tourist point of view?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The Government has given its 'in principle

approval' for setting up of a new airport of international standards at Mopa in Goa. State Government will take further action to select joint venture partners through global tenders. As the proposal is at nascent stage, it is not possible now to give the estimated cost and date of completion of this project. The existing Goa Airport shall remain in use for civil aircraft operation till the commissioning of the new airport proposed at Mopa in Goa.

Airports in Madhya Pradesh

4585. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of airports which are in operation in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the names of airports which are not use for technical or other reasons; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to open more airports for small turbo-prop aircrafts to increase tourism flow in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The airports at Bhopal, Indore, Khajuraho, Raipur, Jabalpur and Gwalior are in operation.

(b) The airports at Panna, Satna, Khandwa and Bilaspur owned by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are non-operational airports due to lack of demand from airline operators.

(c) AAI will open more airports as and when airlines indicate their plan for operation of small turbo-prop aircraft depending upon the commercial viability and availability of such aircraft.

Augmentation of Air Services to Bhopal

4586. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air services to Bhopal are inadequate;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of traffic to Bhopal from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Calcutta; and

(c) the steps which are being taken to augment flights to Bhopal during the current year?